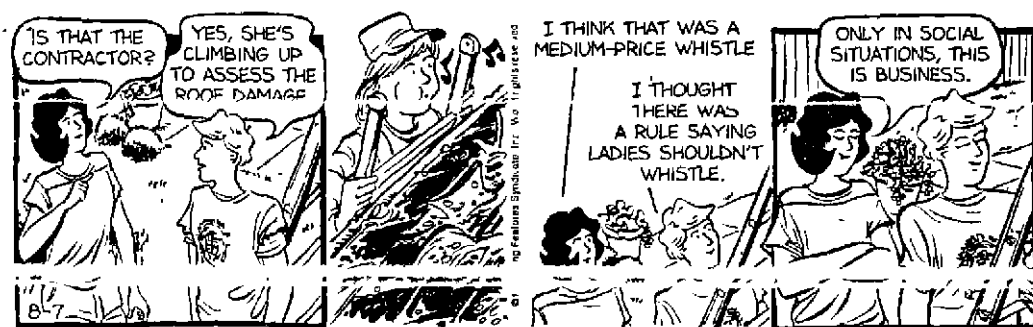


BLONDIE



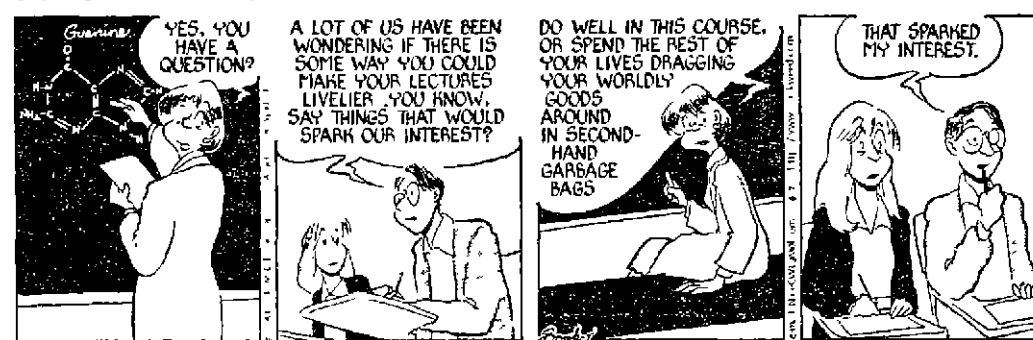
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



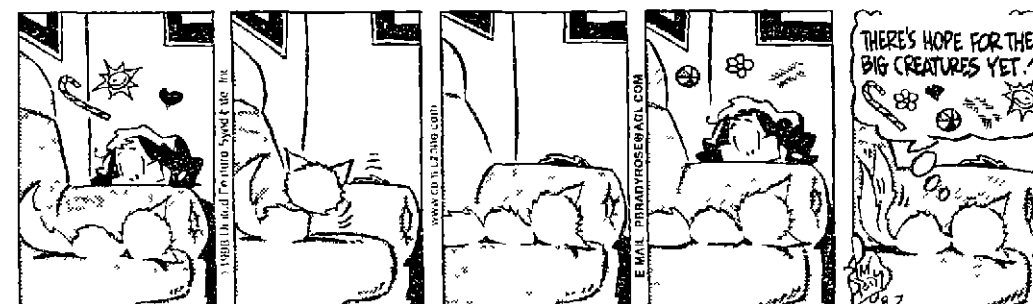
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



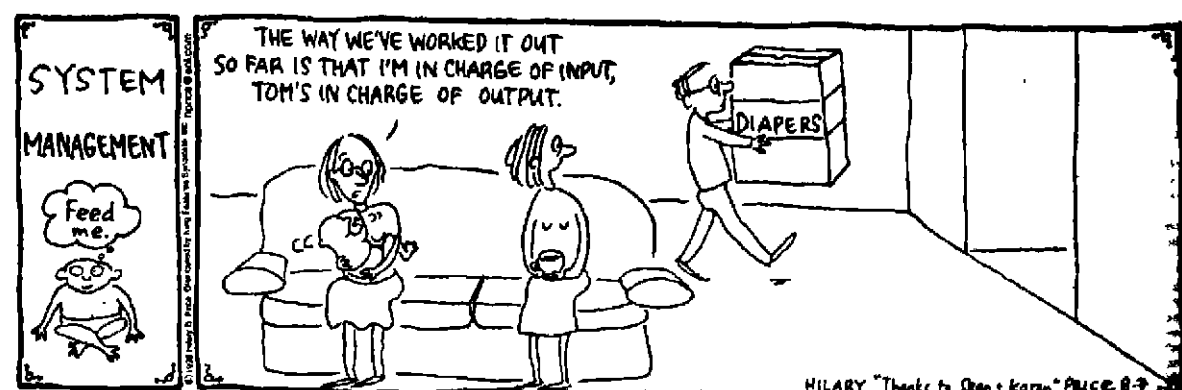
DENNIS THE MENACE



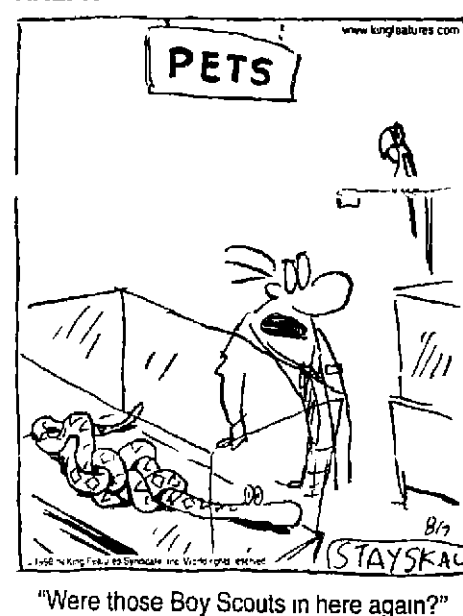
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Humorist **Garrison Keillor** is 56. Singer **B.J. Thomas** is 56. Singer **Lana Carroll** is 55. Actor **John Glover** is 54. Actor **David Rasche** is 54. Country singer **Rodney Crowell** is 48. Actress **Caroline Aaron** is 44. Actor **Wayne Knight** is 43. Rock singer **Bruce Dickinson** is 40. Actor **David Duchovny** is 38. Jazz musician **Marcus Roberts** is 35. Country singer **Raul Malo** (The Mavericks) is 33. Actress **Charlize Theron** is 23.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 110-120 by JUDU

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and CSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDU'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 8-7-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

4th Letter Triple

Double Word Score

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Animals of Africa

POLIEBYVSQNKKE
 A BYWTR OOLJE OGB
 YNWURPNKIFBHG
 BZEXVOPPIHFGASQ
 OMNYNELEPHANTKE
 IGGOHTRAWERIECL
 AYIWOURUFSIREQL
 PLNLJBDHTFGPHFE
 ECAYEUAXVLUSCUZ
 SQPZKNMBKJUBHFA
 ECBZYXVUTRQVUNG

Thursday's unlisted clue REEL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint HAS BLACK & WHITE STRIPES

Baboon Gazelle Hyena Springbok
 Buffalo Giraffe Kudu Vulture
 Cheetah Gnu Lion Wart hog
 Elephant Hippo Rhino

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

Which black suit offers more promise in today's no-trump game? Be careful, looks might be deceiving. A more solid suit is not always better than a porous one. Note the bidding. Unable to support spades and unwilling to stab at a hasty minor-suit game, South marked time by bidding three diamonds. North countered by showing "something" in hearts, and South comfortably stopped at the no-trump game. Blowing smoke, South covers West's diamond 10 with dummy's jack and overtakes with his queen. Confident his deceptive play will ensure a diamond continuation, should South go after dummy's spades? With seven top winners, he has to develop only two more. If South does play spades, the game goes down. The finesse loses, the suit is 4-2, and South runs out of time (and tricks). The defense scores two spades, two clubs and a heart for one down. A better plan is to develop two long-suit winners in the club suit. At trick two South should lead a low club. East wins to return a diamond, and South leads another low club, keeping his ace to control the suit. When clubs split 3-2, about a 68 percent probability, the rest is easy. South can even try a spade finesse for an overtrick. Why does the club suit offer more rewards than the spade suit? Aside from the likely 3-2 split, there is another benefit. If clubs prove unfindable, South still has time to try the spades. When spades are tried first and misbehave, South runs out of time to develop the clubs.

NORTH
 ♠ A K J 8 3
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ 4 3 2

WEST
 ♠ 5 4
 ♥ Q 7 3
 ♦ 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ K J 9

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 9 8 7
 ♥ K 9 5 2
 ♦ 6 3 2
 ♣ Q 10

SOUTH
 ♠ 6 2
 ♥ J 10 8
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ 9 7 5

Vulnerable Both
 Dealer North

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
 3♦ Pass 3♦ Pass
 3♥ Pass 3NT All pass

Opening lead Diamond 10

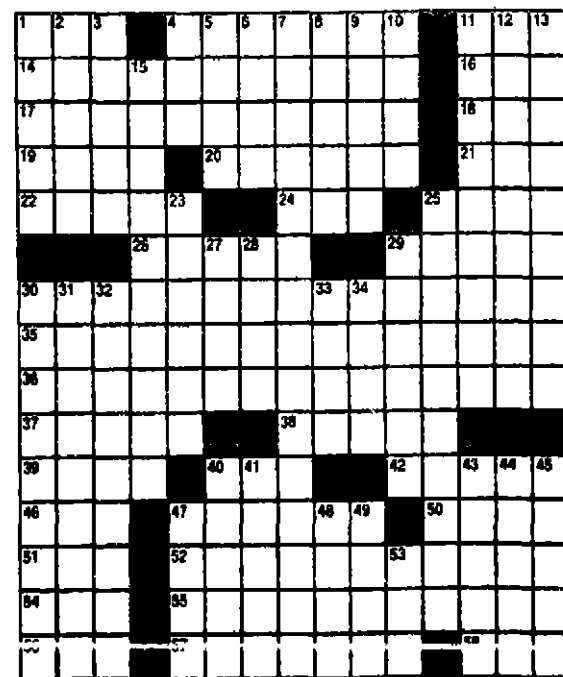
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0626

- ACROSS
- 1 Hi—
 4 Neanderthal
 11 Sound-system part
 14 Refrains from childish behavior
 16 Jazz guitarist
 17 Star seeker
 18 Datebook abbr.
 19 Author Silverstein
 20 Certain putdowns
 21 Liberate, for one
 22 Switch words
 24 Math ratios
 25 Archaic form of "to be"
- 26 Feel
 29 George Harrison popularized it
 30 Where "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" first appeared
 36 English novelist with the pen name Ouida
 38 College conferrals
 37 Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior
 38 Hid, with "up"
 39 Sine qua non
 40 Balancing pro
 42 Promulgated
 44 Stumble
 47 Sidetracks
 50 British colony until 1970
- 51 Car ad abbr.
 52 Warplane's cargo
 54 Indonesia's islands
 55 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
 56 Pointer's direction
 57 Low beams
 58 Cesspool

DOWN

- 1 String bean's opposite
 2 Airline mogul
 3 Pope who persuaded Attila the Hun not to attack Rome
 4 Cell sojourner
 5 Amazon—
 6 Life jacket, e.g.
 7 Way out?
 8 Austronesian language
 9 Fervish fits
 10 Takes home
 11 Then
 12 Indian princess
 13 Contents of a plane
 19 Contents of a plane
 20 Piled upholstery fabrics with uncut loops
 28 Dummy firearm, as on a fort
 33 Ray of Hollywood
 34 Highlander



Puzzle by Frank Longo

- 28 Comics magician, with "the"
 29 Utah Lake city
 30 Foot: Prefix
 31 Barracks bosses
 32 "Ishtar" director
 31 D.C. United player
 33 Dummy firearm, as on a fort
 33 Ray of Hollywood
 34 Highlander
- 40 Darling abroad
 41 Jewish festival
 42 Tavern fixtures?
 43 Pop out of a plane
 44 Like a gossip column
- 47 The Shirelles "Mama"
 48 Busted
 49 Musical mark
 50 Wife, once, with "the"

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